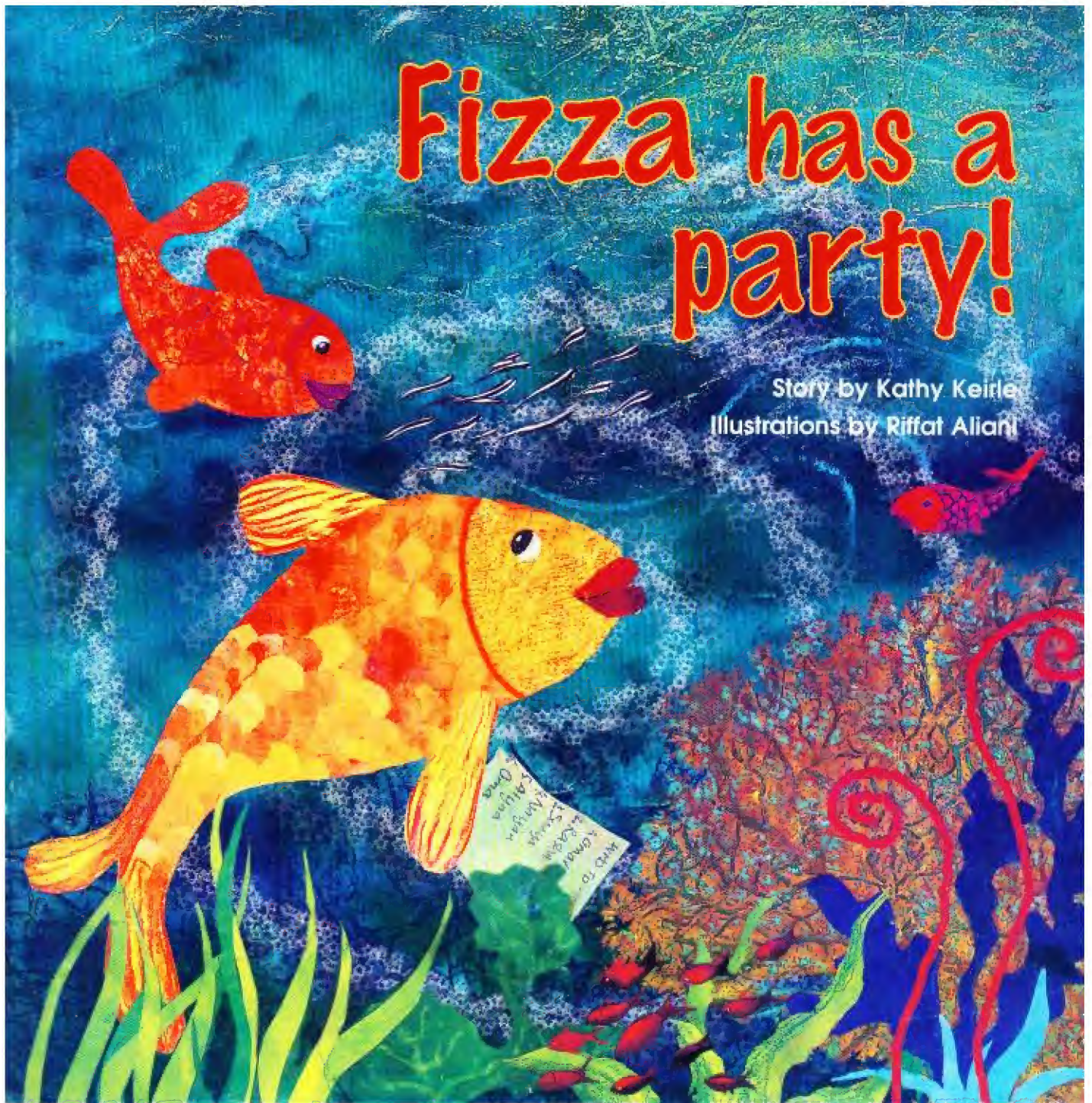


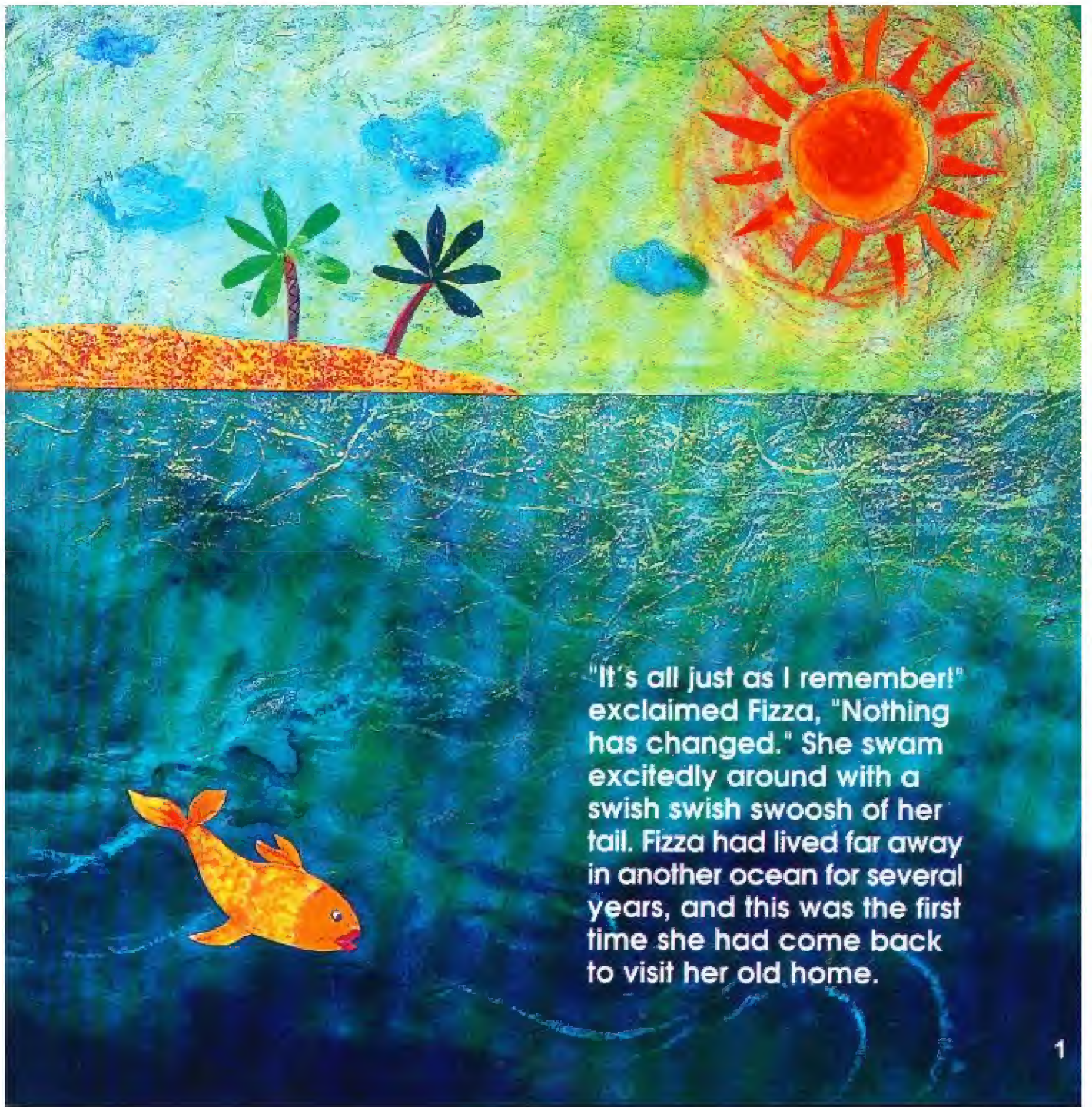
# Fizza has a party!

Story by Kathy Keirle  
Illustrations by Riffat Aliani









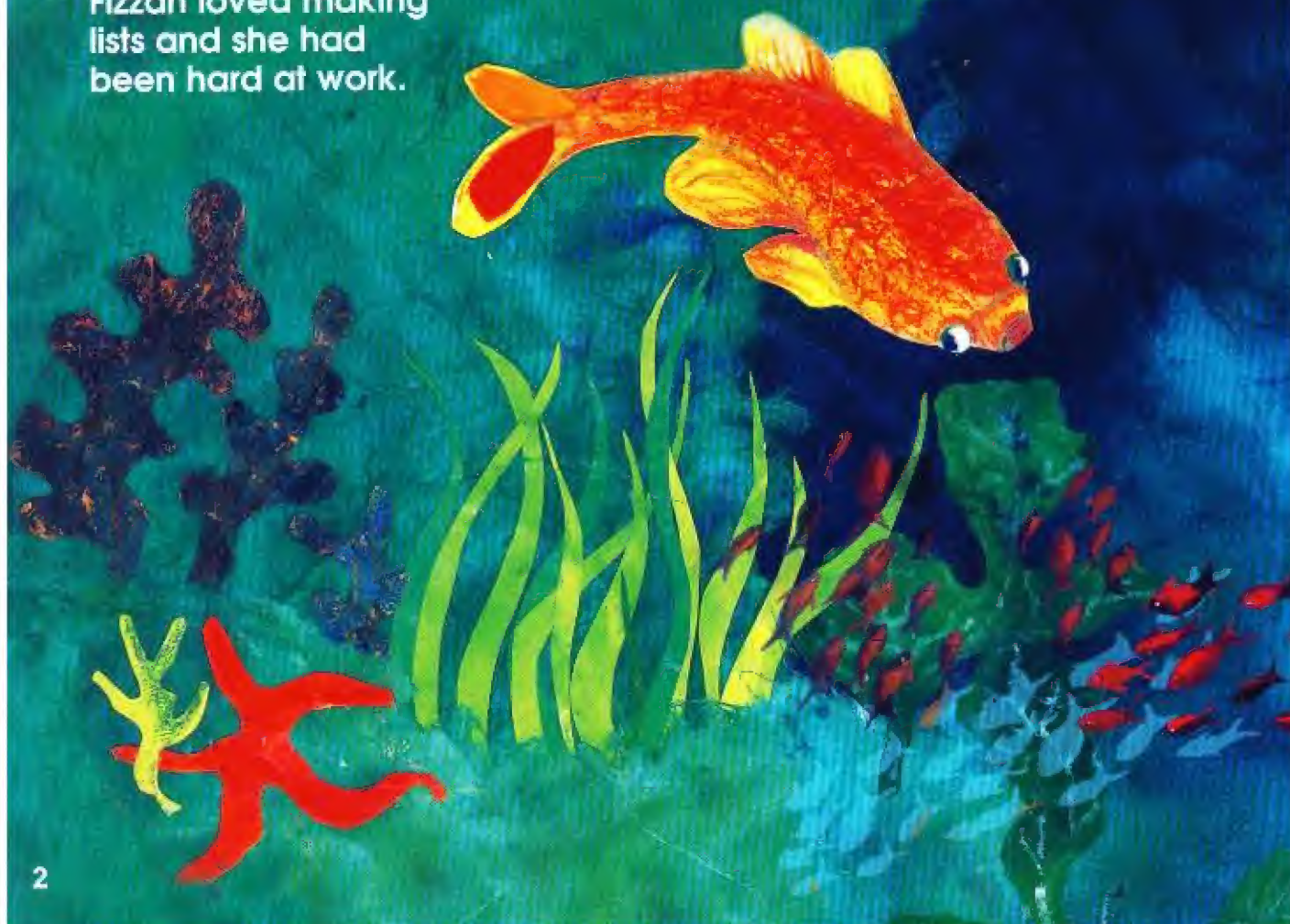
"It's all just as I remember!" exclaimed Fizza, "Nothing has changed." She swam excitedly around with a swish swish swoosh of her tail. Fizza had lived far away in another ocean for several years, and this was the first time she had come back to visit her old home.



"You must tell us who you want to invite," said Bagu and Balu. Fizza's cousins were planning a special welcome home party for her.

"That's easy," she replied. "I have everything prepared."

Fizzah loved making lists and she had been hard at work.






Her cousins looked at each other and groaned.  
"Not one of your lists!" they complained.

"Of course not," said Fizza with a big smile.  
"I've got lots of lists. I'm even better at them now."







Fizza showed her cousins  
the names of the friends  
she wanted to invite.  
She also took out a  
photo of the farewell  
party she'd had before  
she moved away.

"Look! There's Omer the  
octopus, and Zainab and  
Mariam the ray twins.  
I've missed everyone  
so much! I can't wait  
to see all my  
friends again."









Balu and Bagu looked at the list of names  
and then looked at each other. Fizza looked  
at them and they looked away.

"What's the matter?" she asked.

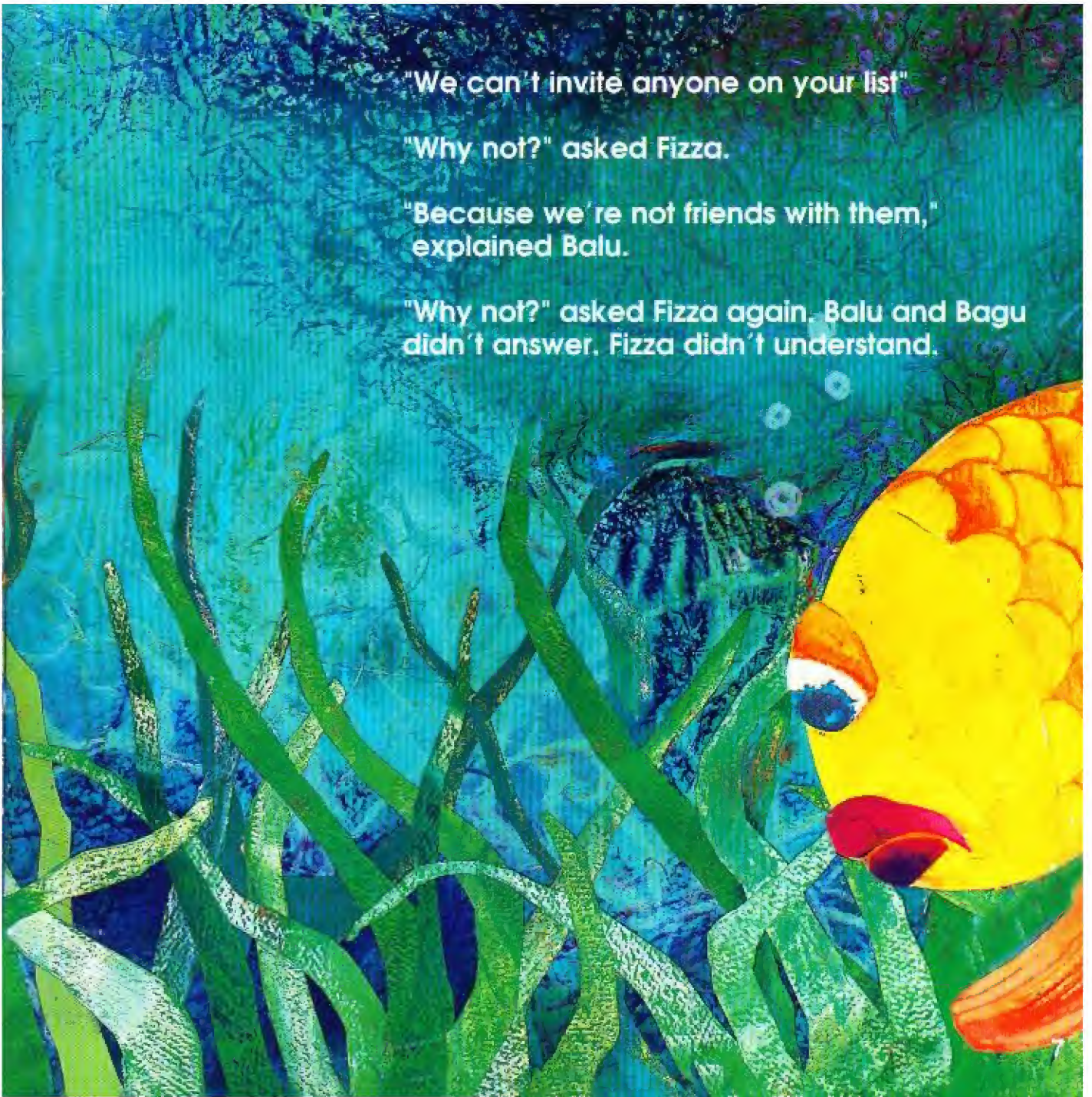


"We can't invite anyone on your list"

"Why not?" asked Fizza.

"Because we're not friends with them,"  
explained Balu.

"Why not?" asked Fizza again. Balu and Bagu  
didn't answer. Fizza didn't understand.







Fizza took her list and swam away. She flicked her fins and twitched her tail. She felt very sad and very lonely.

"Nothing is as I remember. Everything has changed."

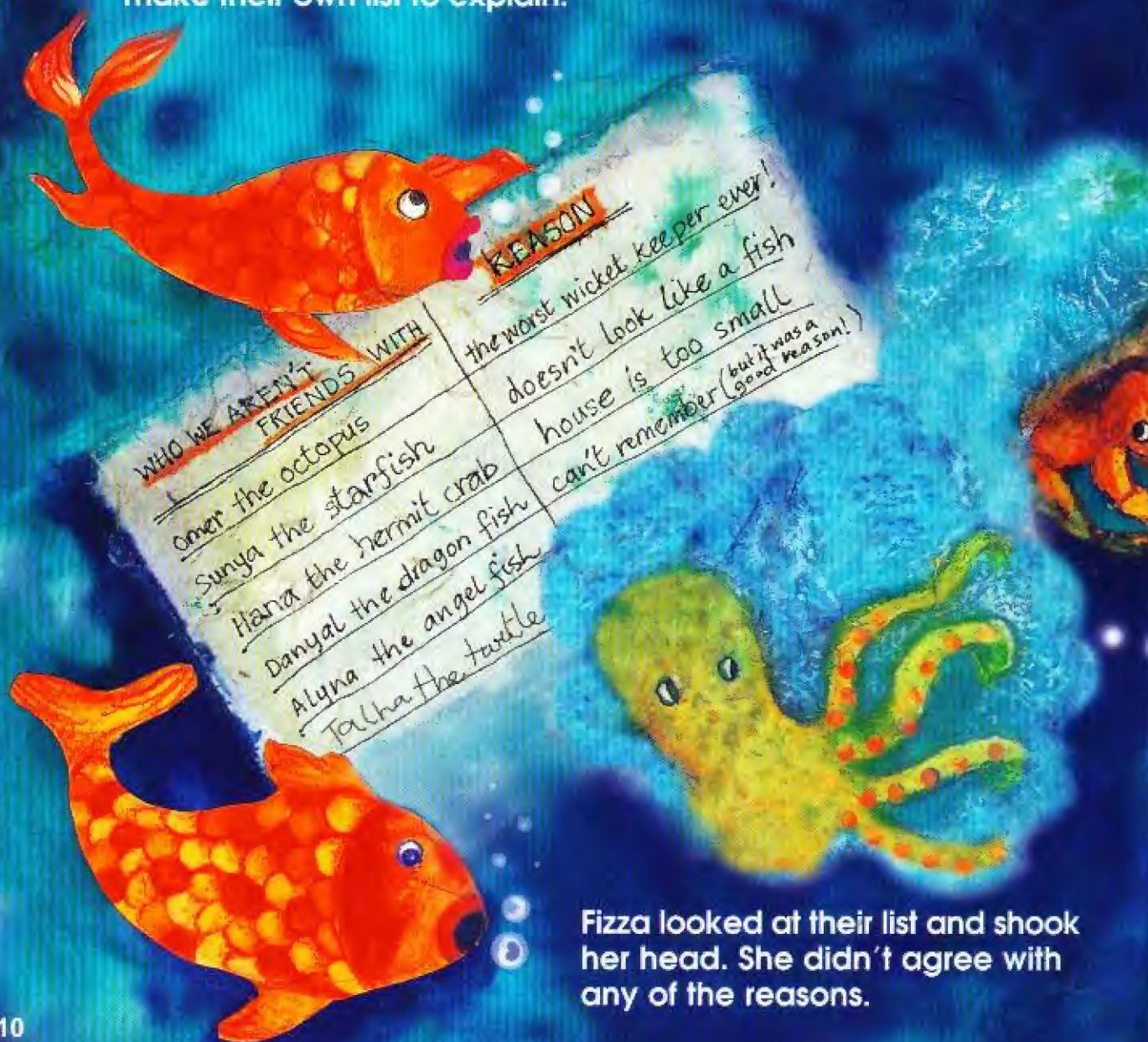








Balu and Bagu decided to make their own list to explain.



Fizza looked at their list and shook her head. She didn't agree with any of the reasons.



"Omer knew he wasn't any good at cricket, but he always helped you make up a team..."

...and Sania may not look like a fish, but then neither does Zora the sea horse, and she is still one of your best friends..."



Balu and Bagu began to feel awkward.  
They stared in discomfort at the ocean floor.

"... and I can't imagine why  
you don't like Danyal.  
Everyone likes Danyal!"



"This is all so silly," she told them. "You haven't given me a single good reason as to why you have lost so many friends."

She took out a pile of cards.

"Look, I have written out the invitations. Why don't you help me deliver them?"





Bagu and Balu slowly raised their eyes. They looked at each other... they looked at Fizza... they smiled. They back-flipped and front-flipped. They looped-the-loop and spun on their tails. With a flick of their fins, off they went, handing out invitations for what was to be the best party of the year.









"What a fantastic party!" exclaimed Bagu. "The best ever!"

"I'm so glad we invited everyone," said Balu. "I'm really enjoying playing with Danyal. And can you see what Maryam and Zainab are up to...?"

"Never mind all that," interrupted Fizza. "The party will be over soon, and we'll have some clearing up to do. I've made a list of all the jobs."

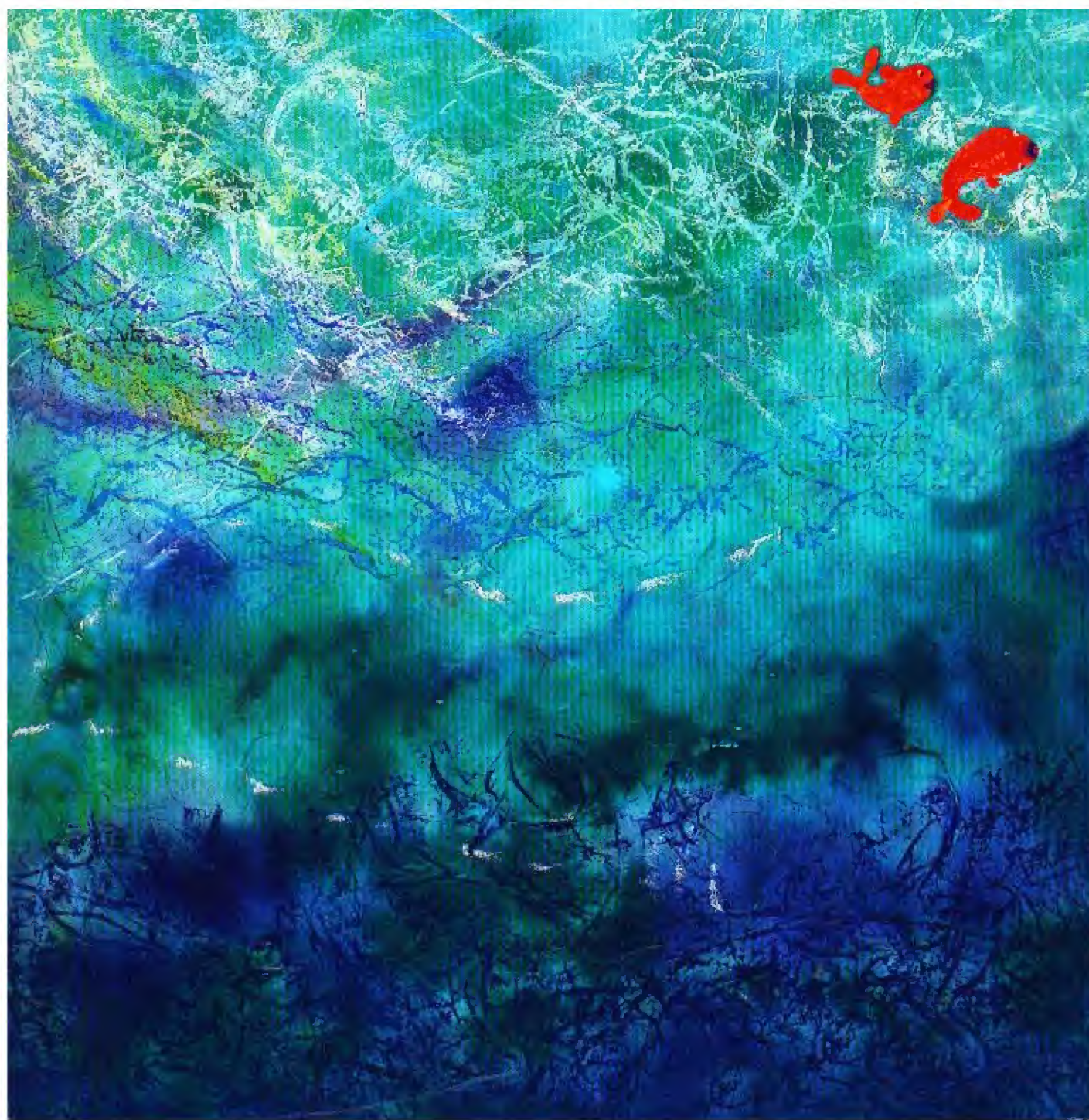




Fizza went to get her list, but when she returned  
Balu and Bagu were no-where to be seen.









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9-C/1, 8th East Street, Phase 1, DHA,  
Karachi 75500  
Phone: (92-21) 5800245, 5886481  
E-mail: [info@hrep.com.pk](mailto:info@hrep.com.pk)  
Web: [www.hrep.com.pk](http://www.hrep.com.pk)



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